



Please join us in celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address



Lafayette Historical Society's Speaker Series





Lincoln
delivering
his speech
at
Gettysburg

" 'THERE IS NO FAIL HERE.' Why did President Lincoln come to Gettysburg on Nov 18 and 19, 1863?"

Speaker.....John J. Fitzpatrick, Jr., Esq., Arbitrator; Licensed Battlefield Guide-Gettysburg; Captain, USMC; Colonel, USAFR (Ret.)

Date.....Sunday, November 17, 2013

Time.....3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Place.....Lafayette Library & Learning Center – Community Hall

Donation Requested--\$10.00 LHS members; \$15.00 non-members requested
Kids under 14 Free with paying adult

For questions or reservations please call (925) 283-1848 or email Lafayette.History@comcast.net

The Gettysburg Address

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that this nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember

Through Mr. Fitzpatrick's presentation we will gain a greater appreciation and understanding of the immortal Gettysburg Address in the context of the pivotal Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania in July 1863.

He will discuss the enormous personal, political and policy pressures impacting President Lincoln as he prepared the speech and when he presented it some four and one-half months after that battle.

How did a careworn, concerned and conflicted President Lincoln, in the midst of the great American Civil War with no end in sight, *who was not chosen as the keynote speaker*, prepare and present his short, two-minute speech?

How were those pressures actually played out in the Gettysburg Address?

What were his purposes and how did he achieve them?

John J. Fitzpatrick, Jr., Esq. is an Attorney, Arbitrator; Reenactor, Veteran and Licensed Battlefield Guide Emeritus at the Gettysburg National Military Park, Pennsylvania. Captain, USMC; Colonel, USAFR (Ret.). The year 2013 marks his 10th year of guiding at Gettysburg. He divides his time between his homes in the Lamorinda area and Pennsylvania. He has spoken on this topic many times before groups both locally and nationally to great acclaim.



John Fitzpatrick

President's Message

It's always hard to say good bye to a good friend and our organization lost a wonderful friend in August when Ollie Hamlin passed away. Ollie's roots ran deep in Lafayette and although he didn't start his life in Lafayette, he spent over 60 years in our city. He was a generous benefactor of our society, a long time Board member, and a tireless volunteer. The History Room exists due to his generosity. His gentle manner and intrepid spirit will be missed.

The Historical Society is always excited to receive additions to our archival collection. Ron Moore and his family have recently donated an 1870's lathe, a flywheel and some other tools to the Historical Society in honor of his parents James and Jane Moore. We are grateful to the family for its gifts which are currently on display in the Heritage Room with Old Betsy.

We hope you were able to attend at least one of our recent programs, one by Stu Swiedler on electric trains and one by Ivy Morrison on the soon-to-open fourth bore of the Caldecott Tunnel. Upcoming programs include a John Fitzpatrick talk on Abraham Lincoln and the Gettysburg Address on Sunday, November 17. Please make your reservations soon. We'd love to hear of any ideas or contacts for programs you might have to share with us.

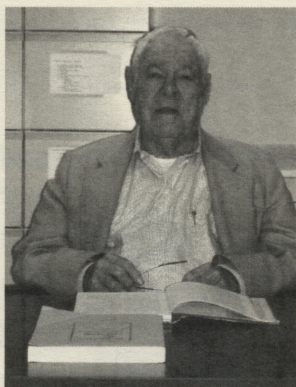
Thank you:

- To Michael Troutman and Kristen Johnston for their efforts on putting some of our oral histories on YouTube so they can be enjoyed by history buffs.
- To George Wasson (and John Kallio) for escorting Old Betsy to and from the Art & Wine Festival.
- To our Board members and volunteers who staffed our booth at the Art & Wine Festival in the rain on Saturday and the heat on Sunday.

Please check our webpage for upcoming programs and events.

- Mary McCosker

In Memoriam - Ollie Hamlin

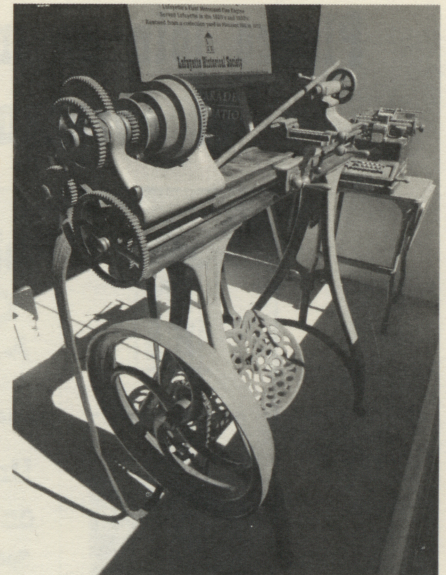


Ollie Hamlin

Ollie was born and raised in Piedmont and remembered visiting his grandfather's ranch in Lafayette during the summer and Easter vacations where he learned to milk cows and shoot rifles.

In 1940, Ollie's father built a house on the original Hamlin Ranch at the top of the hill going toward Rheem and called it Sky Hy. The Lafayette Horse Show was originally held on the Hamlin ranch for about ten years from 1932 to 1942.

Ollie remembered riding his horse to The Curve restaurant. Other memories included the Roundup and attending the opening of the Park Theater around 1940. His father

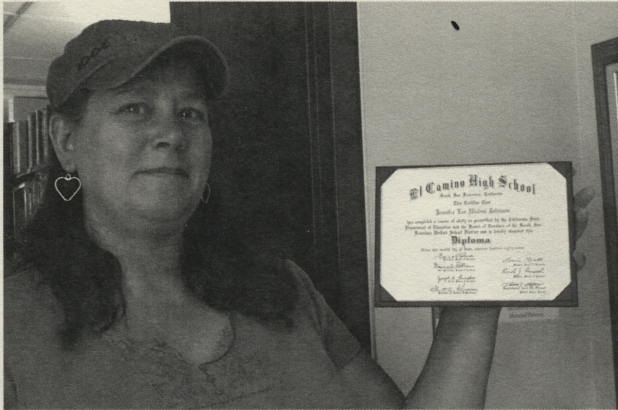


1870's Lathe

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Another Happy Ending!

Remember the lost high school diploma that we talked about in our January 2013 newsletter? Well, thanks to our website its owner has come in to claim it! Here's the story from Jennifer Lee Ululani Johnson:



Jennifer Lee Ululani Johnson

"In January 2012, after moving from Las Vegas back to NoCal, I decided it was time to donate some of the many boxes of books we had been storing in our garage. The closest library was in Lafayette. So, I loaded all the boxes in my car, without going through them and dropped them off.

"Fast forward 1-1/2 years and I'm on vacation in San Diego visiting with my best friend from high school and she tells me her ex-husband found some website that had my diploma on it! I was flabbergasted! My first thought was

someone had broken into our house and only stolen my diploma. Immediately followed by how ridiculous that sounded! Then I read the blog and realized what had happened! Thank heavens for the Friends of the Lafayette Library and the Lafayette Historical Society!

"Now I can return my diploma to its rightful place on the bookshelf at home!"

In Memoriam - Ollie Hamlin

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was instrumental in changing the names of what were then Oakland Street, Commercial Street and Jonas Hill to Moraga Road.

After graduating from Stanford University in 1942, Ollie went into the Navy until 1946. He was the radar officer on the *USS Farragut*, a destroyer that escorted battleships and small carriers in the Aleutians.

In 1947 Ollie earned an MBA from UC Berkeley. Later he and his wife Virginia lived in a home they built on five acres of land given to them by his father on Old Jonas Hill Road.

After the war, Ollie was in sales before getting his real estate license in 1960. He had a real estate office at 3370 Mt. Diablo Blvd. for more than twenty years. He managed real estate projects in Antioch, building a neighborhood shopping center, and managed family property in South San Francisco.

His recollections of Lafayette in earlier times made him an invaluable member of the Association where he served as a past President of the Historical Society and more recently as Corresponding Secretary. He is missed!

Red Scare Not Confined to Red Square

by Ruth Bailey

(Editor's note: we hope you have been enjoying Ruth's historical and sometimes hysterical tales of gambling in Lafayette. Her stories have been included in "*Lafayette Today*" – this is chapter four! Find past chapters at www.yourmonthlyphaper.com)

Return with us now to those thrilling days of yesteryear, when open gambling along the Tunnel Strip was the hottest story under the sun....the *Lafayette Sun*, that is. A special issue of the *Hollywood Reporter* was circulated throughout this area, debunking revelations of illegal—or, at least, shady doings—brought to light by *Sun* Publisher Herman Silverman. He asked who paid the big bucks to print the issue; and wondered why *Hollywood Reporter's* editor, Jimmy Tarantino, cared about Silverman's expose.

In reply, Tarantino produced a second issue of the *H.R.* with a cover story centered on Silverman himself: "Sun Publisher Under Surveillance As Communist." The story inside gave the scoop.

"Herman Silverman, civic-minded publisher of the *Sun*, should watch out when hurling the wolf cry at the masses. It would be best for him to analyze his own...

background before he tries to bolster his... circulation [and position himself] as protector of the populace.

"It is alleged that Herman Silverman, since his student days at Stanford University in '40,'41,'42, was very much interested in the philosophy of the Russian Kremlin. And to date, it is also reported that his leanings are still in that direction. He is currently being investigated to sift out the ashes and bring some of the live RED coals out in the open. When the full reports reach this columnist's office, THEY WILL BE PRINTED. It is evident that he might also be using a Communist tactic with his campaign by arousing people to a pitch. By that time he can play with them at will, regardless of printed lie. Communists always seek typical American strongholds to invade.

"What can be better for someone like Silverman (who bought the *Sun* 2 ½ years ago) to strike at highly rated Contra Costa County? This man who worked in a metropolitan city like San Francisco suddenly decided to buy into Contra Costa. Why? Who sent him? Where does a man working as a reporter on a San Francisco newspaper acquire enough money to buy a newspaper? What group is backing him? Could they be Kremlinites?

"Herman Silverman, who used three editions to rouse peaceable communities with a pack of lies (he has yet to prove anything), is working right in line with Communistic code of aggression. Communism has a master plan to create dissension and hatred. Thereafter, the people become tools.

"The erstwhile publisher ...headlined last week's edition 'SUN ASKS F.B.I. TO INVESTIGATE.' This headline alone is enough to make people believe something awful is going on. He mailed the F.B.I. issues of the *Sun* and a letter. This is the most stupid formal complaint against gangsterism ever witnessed by this columnist."



Gambling Article Banners

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Our Board Members Have Interesting Hobbies!

The "Day in the Life of Lafayette" was a community-created snapshot of Lafayette on Summer Solstice, June 21st sponsored by the City of Lafayette. It was intended to show the community from the lens of those who work, live, or play here as a timeline of that day, from 12:01 AM through 11:59 PM. Two of our Board Members, John Otto and Michael Troutman participated in the event, and their photos were chosen to be displayed. The "Day in the Life of Lafayette" exhibit is now on display in the Library & Learning Center's Community Hall Gallery through early November. You can find more information about this exciting community project on the Day in the Life of Lafayette page. We hope you'll visit the Gallery and look for John and Michael's beautiful photos representative of their interests and our community!

2013-2014 Board of Directors

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Vice President:.....Marechal Duncan

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Ruth Bailey Michael Troutman

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Contact Us:....HistoryRoom-283-1848

- or - lafayette.history@comcast.net



John Otto's Winning Photo



Michael Troutman's Winning Photo

Red Scare Not Confined to Red Square

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Intrepid columnist Tarantino claimed to have checked with the F.B.I. and learned that the agency is "not interested in the case because they're aware that Chicago gangsters never appeared in Orinda and that NO GANGSTER MEETING TOOK PLACE IN ORINDA." He claimed that "the F.B.I. resents that Silverman used their agency in a headline when no proof was evident, thereby striking unnecessary fear into the hearts of Orinda families who probably thought the town was invaded by machine guns and killers.

"There is discussion at the F.B.I. agency about the town's only newspaper who dared hurl a fake kidnapping on the public of a friendly town with the impact of an atom bomb. Dana McGaugh, who admits he was hitch-hiking on that fateful night of his faked kidnapping, must have taken a shot in the arm to concoct so unrealistic a story. The best thing Herman Silverman and Dana McGaugh can do to right themselves with the citizens of Lafayette

and Orinda would be for them to submit to a lie detector. That needle would go off in crazy gyrations no doubt.... Silverman and McGaugh has better clean up their own quarters.

"Orinda does not have mobster gamblers in its midst, nor does it have prostitution, smoke-filled vice dens or shootings. The only place where anything irregular goes on in Orinda is among certain individuals associated with the *Sun*."

This excerpt from the 1950 *Lafayette Sun* provides a hometown glimpse into the Red scare practice of labeling (and libeling) someone a Communist. We've probably heard of it, but likely never witnessed it so close to home. The story will continue.....



Lafayette Historical Society
P.O. Box 133
Lafayette, CA 94549
www.LafayetteHistory.org

Return Service Requested

Lafayette Historical Society Membership Application

(Please photocopy form for additional names)

Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City-Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Membership Categories and Annual Dues

(Please check one)

- ☐ Student Membership \$10.00
- ☐ Individual Membership \$25.00
- ☐ Family Membership \$50.00
- ☐ Sponsor Membership \$500.00

Please indicate areas of special interest

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Publicity | ☐ Data Base Entry of Photos |
| ☐ Research-Genealogy | ☐ Photo Collection |
| ☐ Telephoning | ☐ News Clippings |
| ☐ Displays | ☐ Fire Engine |
| ☐ Oral Histories | ☐ Walking Tours-Outreach |
| ☐ History Room | ☐ Other _____ |

Please mail this application to:

Lafayette Historical Society
P.O. Box 133
Lafayette, CA 94549